

App. No. 09/576,706
Response mailed December 17, 2003
Re: Office Action mailed September 17, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 17, 2003, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks. Claims 21-40 are still pending in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks.

Rejection of Claims 21-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubelsten et al., Hunter et al., Godavarti et al., or Hendrickson et al., in view of Laver, further in view of Prutkin, Motegi et al., or Beshay. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant respectfully maintains the previous remarks which have been made concerning the shortcomings of the cited references. The new primary references cited by the Examiner fail to overcome the shortcomings of those references. Neither Dubelsten et al., Hunter et al., Godavarti et al., nor Hendrickson et al. teach or suggest the method of making a siding panel from the composite of the present invention. These references describe the use of plastic composites and/or manufacturing methods that differ from the plastic composites and/or methods described in the secondary references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that there is not adequate motivation in the prior art to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner in order to arrive at the present invention. As a result, claims 21-27 are at least patentable as a new use of the composites specified therein.

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Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Dubelsten et al., Hunter et al., Godavarti et al., or Hendrickson et al., in view of Laver, further in view of Prutkin, Motegi et al., or Beshay cannot support the rejection of claims 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Rejection of Claims 28-40 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubelsten et al., Hunter et al., Hendrickson et al., or Golder et al., in view of Laver, further in view of Cope '016, Cope '927, Cope '680, or Schinzel, even further in view of Waki et al. or Brandt, and even further in view of Prutkin. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant again maintains the previous remarks which have been made concerning the shortcomings of the cited references. The shortcomings of those references are not overcome by the new primary references cited by the Examiner. Dubelsten et al., Hunter et al., Hendrickson et al., and Golder et al. fail to teach or suggest the method of making a siding panel from the specific composite of the present invention. These references describe the use of plastic composites and/or manufacturing methods that are significantly different from the plastic composites and/or methods described in the secondary references. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully submits that sufficient motivation is lacking in the prior art to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner in order to arrive at the present invention. As a result, claims 28-40 are at least patentable as a new use of the composites specified therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Dubelsten et al., Hunter et

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al., Hendrickson et al., or Golder et al., in view of Laver, further in view of Cope '016, Cope '927, Cope '680, or Schinzel, even further in view of Waki et al. or Brandt, and even further in view of Prutkin cannot support the rejection of claims 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

The Applicant has distinguished claims 21-40 over the cited references. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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